

Montgomery County weighs court for mentally ill

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WASHINGTON Some Montgomery County Council members say they want to create a special court for mentally ill, nonviolent offenders to save money and improve treatment of such criminals.

Corrections officials have not said how much the county could save with a mental health court.

Health officials say mentally ill inmates constitute 25 percent of the county's jail population and are more likely to reoffend.

Councilman George Leventhal says the county could cut costs and reduce recidivism by sending such criminals to treatment centers instead of jail.

Law enforcement and court officials say they don't know whether the county can afford the court.

Information from: The Washington Examiner, <http://www.examiner.com>

Read more at the Washington Examiner: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/md/montgomery-county-weighs-court-for-mentally-ill-98834464.html#ixzz0uEqjdoFs>